## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A method for detecting the presence or amount of *Borrelia burgdorferi* nucleic acids in a test sample, comprising:
  - (a) amplifying *FlaA* nucleic acids in *Borrelia burgdorferi* nucleic acid sequence if present in said sample using a pair of oligonucleotide primers having the sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2;
  - (b) hybridizing said amplified *FlaA* nucleic acids with an oligonucleotide probe having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3, wherein said probe is conjugated to 6-carboxyflroresceine (FAM) and 6-carboxytetramethylrhodamine (TAMRA), in the presence of an enzyme that cleaves said probe when said probe hybridizes to said HBV nucleic acid; and
  - (c) detecting a signal from said probe, wherein said signal indicates the presence or amount of *Borrelia burgdorferi* nucleic acids in said test sample.
- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein human placental nucleic acid are introduced into said test sample and amplified using the pair of oligonucleotide primers to produce human placental amplicons.
- 3. The method of claim 2, wherein said human placental amplicons are hybridized to a control oligonucleotide probe having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6, wherein the control oligonucleotide probe is conjugated to 2'-chloro-5-fluoro-7'-phenyl-1,4-dichloro-6-carboxyfluorescein (VIC) and 6-carboxytetramethylrhodamine (TAMRA).
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said test sample is selected from the group consisting of serum, blood, plasma, cerebral spinal fluid, synovial fluid, and urine.
- 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said *Borrelia burgdorferi* nucleic acids are purified from said sample prior to said amplifying step (a).
- 6. The method of claim 5, wherein said human placental nucleic acid is introduced into said test sample prior to purifying said *Borrelia burgdorferi* nucleic acids from said sample.